

REMARKS

Claims 10-11, 13-15, and 17-24 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 10, 14, 18, 21, and 24 have been amended based on, for example, page 3 of the specification. Claims 12 and 16 have been canceled.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 10 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10-17 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bangaru et al. (US 6,228,183) in view of Heitmann et al. (US 5,554,233).

In addition, claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Heitmann et al. (US 5,554,233) in view of Bangaru et al. (US 6,228,183).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Bangaru discloses a content of C having a maximum value of 0.10%, and thus does not disclose the claimed range of $0.10 < C < 0.15\%$. In addition, Heitmann discloses a compositional range for Mo between 0.01 and 0.10%, however, the claimed steel composition provides a minimum value of 0.15% for the Mo element.

Further, the ASM Handbook merely discloses a forging temperature of 1290°C. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of combining the Handbook with Bangaru and Heitmann to arrive at the invention according to claim 21.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the steel composition recited in claim 10, 14, 18, 21 and 24 is not obvious in view of the cited art.

Nor does the cited art disclose, teach or suggest the processes of claims 18 and 21, which permits the manufacture of ready-to-use forged mechanical components with elevated characteristics, without additional heat treatment after forging.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention according to claims 10, 14, 18, 21 and 24 is patentable over the cited art.

Moreover, claims 11, 13, 15, 17, 19-20, and 22-23 depend from claims 10, 14, 18, or 21, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 10, 14, 18, and 21.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

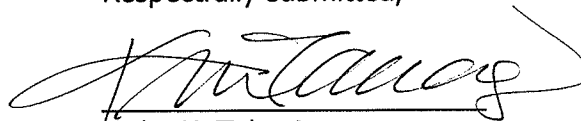
II. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 10-11, 13-14, 15, 17-24 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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